



CWHHS

Data Points

RESULTS FROM THE CALIFORNIA WOMEN'S HEALTH SURVEY

California has established several programs to increase access of all Californians to a secure supply of healthy food. These include the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Supplemental Nutrition Program, as well as programs to support development of Farmers' Markets and to encourage small local food stores to carry fruits, vegetables, and other healthful foods. Interventions such as these work best when they reach women most likely to be at risk for hunger. However, limited information is available about these women in California. The 1997 California Women's Health Survey¹ found that Hispanic women are highly likely to be at risk for hunger. Data from the 1998 California Women's Health Survey (CWHHS) were used to determine characteristics of California Latinas most likely to be at risk for hunger.

The 1998 CWHHS assessed women's risk for hunger by asking: **"In the last 12 months, did you ever eat less than you felt you should have because there wasn't enough money to buy food?"** Women who answered "yes" were considered to be at risk for hunger. Demographic information collected included race, ethnicity, and country of birth.

- Among Hispanic women, 20% were at risk for hunger.
- Among Hispanic women interviewed in the CWHHS, 47% were born in Mexico and 41% in the United States. Among Hispanic women, 47% were interviewed in Spanish.
- Of all California women at risk for hunger in 1998, 38% were Hispanic, 22% were born in Mexico, and 24% were interviewed in Spanish.
- Spanish speaking Hispanic women are more likely than English speaking Hispanic women to be at risk for hunger. Among Hispanic women interviewed in Spanish, 27% reported going without sufficient food compared to 14% of those interviewed in English.
- Hispanic women born in Mexico are more likely to be at risk for hunger than Hispanic women born in the U.S. Among U.S.-born Hispanic women, 13% were at risk for hunger compared to 26% of Hispanic women born in Mexico.

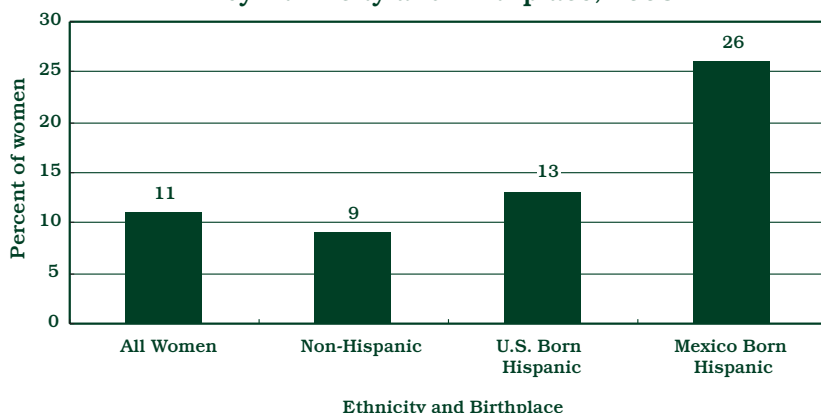
RISK FOR HUNGER AMONG U.S. BORN AND IMMIGRANT HISPANIC WOMEN, CALIFORNIA, 1998

Office of Women's Health

Maternal and Child Health Branch

¹ Data Points, Issue 1 (14), (1998) "Risk for Hunger Among Women, by Race/Ethnicity; California, 1997".

Percent of California Women at Risk for Hunger by Ethnicity and Birthplace, 1998



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